

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Applicant's attorney, **Mr. Mark Bicks** on Monday, December 8, 2008.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the Claims:

Claim 9, line 10, after "linkage member", insert---**extending**---, after "within said", delete---**separating piston**---, insert---**cavity**---

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: After a review of the prior art of record, it is believed that the present invention is novel and non-obvious wherein the piston in the closest reference to **Whiteside**, U.S. 6,539,976 discloses a piston including crosspieces, but does not disclose the cross pieces extending diametrically to the longitudinal axis and extending from the longitudinal axis to an inside wall of the piston and terminating to a cylindrical hollow receiving ring or an axially extending linkage member extending within the cavity that faces the gas side of the accumulator housing. **Whiteside** also does not disclose the

crosspieces being rectangular in cross-section and extending an entire height of the cavity within the piston, as recited in claims 9 and 17 of the present invention.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **Patrick F. Brinson** whose telephone number is (571) 272-4897. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 7:30-3:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, **Kevin P. Shaver** can be reached on (571) 272-4720. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Patrick F. Brinson/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3754

P. F. Brinson
December 7, 2008